



SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*October
1951*

Miscellany

Odds and Ends

One of the pleasures of selling books is watching the orders come in, and noticing the great variety of spelling. One person has ordered "Going Light with Back, Pack, and Burro"; the Mechanics Institute Library of San Francisco lists the book in its little leaflet on new books and not only spells the word "Burrow" but also lists the book under the heading "Fine Arts." We have also had an order from a man on Alcatraz, who is interested in "Going Light." We have sent the book and hope it's all right.

High Light from the Fair. A bright bit of visual information was managed at the Sierra Club exhibit at the State Fair. A map of California with the Sierra Club lodges and other points of Sierra Club interest, and a corresponding written legend, was operated very successfully. There were 29 progressive lighted positions on the map which made up one cycle. Each position (which consisted of a pair of lights, one light located at the written explanation, the other at the corresponding geographic point on the map) was lighted for a period of ten seconds. For a series of periods 12 hours each day (10 a.m. to 10 p.m.) for 11 days the map passed through approximately 47,520 lighted positions, or about 1638 cycles without faltering.

THE SIERRA CLUB, founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast. Since these resources receive best protection from those who know them well, the club has long conducted educational activities, under the committees listed below, to make them known. Participation is invited in the program to enjoy and to preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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The Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club met at the American Alpine Club rooms in New York City, on September 21, to hear Horace Albright, Honorary Vice-President of the Sierra Club and former Director of the National Park Service, speak on "Conserving the Wilderness." A nostalgic touch for the chapter members was the showing of Kodachrome movies of the 1951 Sierra Club High Trip.

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COVER: Tree and shadow near Peeler Lake, Yosemite National Park. By Philip Hyde.

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Published monthly except July and August by the Sierra Club, 2061 Center Street, Berkeley 4, California. Annual dues are \$6 (first year \$12), of which \$1 (nonmembers, \$2) is for subscription to the *Bulletin*. Entered as second class matter at Post Office, Berkeley, under act of March 3, 1879. Contributions and changes of address should go to address above; communications on club policy matters should be addressed to: Secretary, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.



Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 36

OCTOBER, 1951

NUMBER 8

...TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE PRIMEVAL MOUNTAIN SCENE...

For the October Record

Return to Everest

Mountaineers are awaiting with greatest interest the first reports to come from a new reconnaissance, which it is hoped, will result in discovering a possible route up Mount Everest from the southwest. The Himalayan Committee of the Royal Geographic Society and the Alpine Club are sending out a small party this autumn to make the reconnaissance, with Eric Shipton, veteran Everest climber, as leader. This side of the mountain can be approached only through Nepal, but the government of that country has granted the privilege to the expedition. Other members of the party are: W. H. Murray, experienced and able mountaineer, who is known also for his books "Mountaineering in Scotland" and "Undiscovered Scotland"; Dr. Michael Ward, one of the most outstanding of the postwar generation of British mountaineers, and T. Bourdillon, another of the younger climbers, but a mountaineer of exceptional talent.

The main objects of the present reconnaissance expedition are: to try to find another route to the summit, from the southwestern side; to examine the possibility of climbing the mountain *after* the monsoon (which usually ends around September 20) by determining whether snow conditions on the upper slopes of Everest would make such an attempt impossible; and to find out if it is possible to climb to high altitudes in the extreme cold that would probably be met with in the late autumn.

As the party expects to spend the whole period between the end of the monsoon and

the end of November in the vicinity of the southwest side of Everest, it will be a rather long while before a complete report comes to the outer world.

Outings for 1952

Tentative plans for another full season of Sierra Club Wilderness Outings were made by the Outing Committee at its October 10 meeting. Dates and places are as follows:

High Trip—three two-week periods starting July 13. The first trip, over Bishop, Mather, Pinchot, and Sawmill Passes; the second trip, over Sawmill, Pinchot, Mather, and Cartridge Passes and back over Sawmill; the third trip, in over Sawmill to Sixty Lake Basin over Glen Pass and out over Kearsarge.

Base Camp—six weeks starting July 5, with a minimum stay of two weeks. A two-day move from Florence Lake and Blaney Meadows to Colby Meadow in the Evolution country.

Burro Trips—four two-week trips starting June 29. From Carol Creek via Army, Foresters, and Kearsarge Passes to Onion Valley. Alternate trips will be run in the reverse direction.

Knapsack Trips—the Sierra trip starting July 6. From Cedar Grove to Sixty Lake Basin, over Pinchot and Cartridge Passes to Marion Lake, returning to Cedar Grove via the Monarch Divide.

Out-of-State Trip—to Mount Rainier National Park, two weeks starting August 4.

Saddle Trip—The date and itinerary have not been announced.

Dreadful Dredging in Idaho

Californians own a perpetual exhibit of the horrors of dredging, in the form of miles of boulder heaps cast up in the greedy search for gold. They may sympathize with these remarks of *The Idaho Statesman* of Boise:

"The request of the Idaho-Canadian dredging company for a lease to dredge the south fork of the Payette river once again brings up the perennial question of whether the state ever benefits from such transactions, when approved, or whether the net result is not more of a loss.

"Certainly there can be no quibbling with the fact that the monster dredges can in a very short time turn what was once a beautiful mountain river of great scenic attraction into a flowing channel of muck, killing off fish which once provided outdoor recreation, and leaving in their wake a ghastly pile of rubble.

"And what do the people of Idaho get out of such deals which might soften the ugly aspect of the dredging operations?

"In the past, the state land department has received the magnificent royalty of 2½ per cent on all precious metals and minerals extracted under leases which have been granted.

"In the opinion of this newspaper, this isn't sufficient compensation to justify giving a lease to dig with a shovel and pan along the Idaho trout stream, much less allowing entry to one of the clanking monsters which can gulp up entire sections of stream bed, and disgorge an unsightly mound of pebbles.

"Actually, keeping in mind the stupid depredations of the past, and thinking of coming generations, we can't help wondering if any kind of royalty arrangement can justify a continued wholesale plundering of areas of the Idaho outdoors as yet unspoiled . . .

"The matter, as we see it, should be decided on the basis of what constitutes the greatest good for the greatest number, and we doubt if this can be achieved by turning forest streams into putrid solutions of mud."

But Idaho Leads the Way

The Idaho State Fish and Game Commission has served notice on mining dredge operators who are preparing to wash monazite sands, rare earth minerals, and gold from Bear Valley Creek that it intends to hold the operators responsible for damage to fish and game and that it expects them to take adequate precautionary measures to protect the public interest, according to the Wildlife Management Institute.

Bear Valley Creek is a main tributary of a branch of the Salmon River, one of the principal salmon and steelhead spawning areas in the Northwest, an important deer and elk feeding range, and a heavily utilized camping and recreation area.

Sheathing the iron fish in a velvet glove, the Commission, in a resolution passed at its recent regular session, simultaneously pledged its cooperation and assistance in helping all operators in attempts to comply with regulations of the Fish and Game Department. It recognized the importance of the production of critical metals and min-

erals to the national security and national economy. It pointed out, however, that dredging operations can be justified only when the activities include adequate precautions against unnecessary damage to the water course and the restoration of the area after cessation of dredging.

The Commission specifically recommended in its resolution that muddy discharge from the dredging operations be isolated from the main stream and settled before being released into the stream bed; that the disturbed area be smoothed to a contour reasonably comparable to the natural lines of the land before operations; that top-soil be saved and replaced; and that any water course disturbed should be replaced on a natural meandering course conducive to good fish and wildlife habitat. It recommended that extensive tests be conducted by the operators before dredging starts to make certain that returns from the operations will be sufficient to pay for these recommended restoration activities.

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Conrad Wirth to Become National Parks Director

A Federal Government career extending over 48½ years will end with the close of business on December 8, when the retirement of Arthur E. Demaray, Director of the National Park Service since April 1, 1951, becomes effective. Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman announced Mr. Demaray's pending retirement today, at the same time that he announced the appointment of Conrad L. Wirth as his successor, and of Thomas J. Allen as a new assistant director of the Service. Mr. Wirth succeeded Mr. Demaray as associate director last April; Mr. Allen is at present regional director of the National Park Service's Region One, with headquarters in Richmond, Virginia.

Secretary Chapman also announced that the position of associate director was being abolished. Hillory A. Tolson is designated as senior assistant director and will serve as director when Mr. Wirth is absent.

Conrad L. Wirth has been with the National Park Service in various capacities since 1931, except for a year, in 1945-46, when he was loaned by the Department of the Interior to the United States Allied Council in Austria. He was born in 1899 in Hartford, Conn., where his father was superintendent of parks, before becoming, for 28 years, superintendent of Minneapolis parks; his brother Walter, now in charge of Penn-

sylvania State parks, was for many years superintendent of parks in New Haven, Conn.

A graduate of Massachusetts State College, now the University of Massachusetts, in landscape architecture, Mr. Wirth entered the Federal service in 1938, with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, after five years of private practice in San Francisco and New Orleans. While assistant director in charge of the National Park Service's branch of lands, in 1933, he was assigned direction of Emergency Conservation Work (CCC) on State parks; three years later he was placed in charge of the entire ECW program of the Park Service and became Department of the Interior representative on the CCC Advisory Council. He also directed the park, parkway and recreational area survey authorized by Congress in 1936. After his return from Austria, he resumed direction of the land planning functions of the Service until his appointment as assistant director in 1949.

Mr. Wirth is a life member of the Board of Directors of the National Conference on State Parks, a member of the Board of the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association, and a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. In 1946, he was awarded the Pugsley gold medal for his services in both state and national park work.

Aspen Fights for Its Water

The thriving little town of Aspen, Colorado, mountaineering and resort center, faces overwhelming odds in a battle to retain its water supply, says the Wildlife Management Institute. A gigantic Bureau of Reclamation scheme, the "Gunnison-Arkansas Transmountain Diversion Project," seeks to divert the waters of several rivers through tunnels and canals to the eastern slope of the mountains.

Information from the Pitkin County Water Association, with headquarters in Aspen, points to disastrous effects of the projected diversion. Besides the loss of recreational areas and facilities, extensive lead,

zinc and silver deposits already explored by the Anaconda Mining Company would be put under water. Future development of Colorado's west slope would be subordinated to Federal subsidization of 300,000 acres of potential farmland and 104,800 kilowatts of electric power.

Not inconsiderable would be the blow to taxpayers throughout the nation. For each farmer and landowner who might benefit from the project, \$22,000 must come from the United States Treasury. Reclamation estimates (usually low) call for an expenditure of \$147,440,000 to construct dams and holding reservoirs above Aspen.

Forest Recreation and the Wilderness

By BERNARD FRANK

A CARDINAL FEATURE of wilderness appreciation is the maximum possible isolation from modern human influences. This makes necessary the exclusion of developments or practices which may lessen the quality of isolation, and along with this, interfere with, or modify the natural processes. As a result, it establishes definite limits to the extent to which wilderness use may be harmonized either with non-recreational uses, or with more intensive forms of recreation.

Ecologists and other wilderness exponents recognize that primitiveness and naturalness are inherent in wilderness environment. According to this viewpoint, neither scenic beauty nor culturally modified plant cover is indispensable to wilderness enjoyment. In short, the maintenance of frontier quality, *i.e.*, primitive character, with respect to modes of travel and conditions of growth plainly indicates that the processes of nature should be interfered with to the minimum possible extent.

Here is where difficult problems lie, and equally difficult decisions are involved. If this idea is taken literally, we must face a willingness to accept rather drastic changes in the plant cover from time to time, as for example, the rapid decadence of old, even-aged stands over sizeable areas or extensive damage to forest growth by fire, insect or disease epidemics, floods, earth movements or violent windstorm. Yet from the naturalist's point of view it must be recognized that such forces and their effects, however destructive in a material sense are a vital part of the primitive quality that is an essential of wilderness. And, from the wilderness recreation viewpoint also, if unmodified contact with the natural environment is the key aspect of such use, any human activities which attempt to arrest the continuity of natural processes would clearly be out of line. In effect, this viewpoint indicates that we should expect wilderness cover conditions to vary from virgin to denuded with all gradations in between, depending upon the course of natural events.

The necessity for leaving wilderness as free as possible from human interference grows directly out of a key incentive to wilderness recreation, namely the opportunity to rely on one's own resources. Unlike the situation on developed areas, which also are available for recreational use the wilderness traveler expects to take the country as it comes, with all the hardships and exercise of ingenuity that are called for. Getting along under such conditions is considered a vital component of wilderness appreciation, and to some at least as a source of deep spiritual satisfaction.

Those who understand and appreciate the spiritual and sociological need for wilderness atmosphere readily agree that any developments or cultural activities seriously impair this quality. Roads, dams and reservoirs, mining operations, or commercial timber harvesting, for example, clearly are incompatible influences. These invasions are commonly frowned upon because they drastically reduce the isolation and naturalness which only the unmodified environment can afford.

THERE is still another category of activities which needs to be critically examined from that aspect. This category includes such practices as livestock grazing, the control of fire, insects or disease, timber salvage operations following fire or blowdown, headwaters flood control, plant cover manipulation to improve water supplies, etc.

To my way of thinking, the difference between those activities commonly admitted to be destructive of wilderness and those in the category of protection or management is one of degree only. In the case of roads, dams, and the like, the environmental effects are obviously abrupt and drastic. In the case of protective or remedial measures, the effects may usually be gradual and, at first, more difficult to perceive. But in the end, such measures may be as damaging to the qualities of naturalness and isolation as roads or reservoirs.

As a result of past occurrences—man-made, natural, or both—some wilderness

areas may now be in an unsatisfactory condition when viewed from the standpoint of watershed protection or water resource management. Large acreages formerly well forested may be denuded or clothed in sparse brush; local soil and waterflow instability may be present here and there; stream flow conditions may not be what they otherwise might if small dams or other artificial devices could be built to even out the flows so that fish could thrive better, etc.

Without efforts to restore stable conditions where they are now lacking, or without controls to lessen watershed instability, it is quite likely that under some circumstances damages may result to material values both within and outside some wilderness tracts. In addition, the wilderness traveler himself may find unsightly conditions, and may have to face additional inconveniences, and perhaps even physical hazards. Yet, are not such "nuisance" conditions as inherent in the natural scheme of things as "stable" old-growth forest, or virile, youthful cover? Over the ensuing one, two or perhaps three human life spans, natural processes will have tended to heal the scars, and the temporary "disturbances" of the present will have made little difference. The wilderness environment will still be intact, and future generations will be the richer spiritually for having it.

If wilderness is essentially isolation from modern influences and nature left to work in its own way, then those who wish to enjoy it should be prepared to accept the implications. For example, if fire protection means improvements that will unduly increase the accessibility or ease of travel within wilderness areas, it might be better to seek other methods of protection which do not require such improvements. Similarly, projects to stabilize channels or halt debris movements, cultural treatments to increase water yields, or insect or disease control by mechanical methods, and other activities which reduce isolation or introduce artificial modifications in plant-soil-animal relations would also be out of place.

Similarly, the introduction of shelters, bridges, cableways, or other artificial aids to travel would spell the beginning of the end of wilderness environment. Such conveniences, however relished by some, can only

serve to defeat the purposes of wilderness experience, because they reduce the feeling of oneness with nature or the dependence upon one's own unaided efforts that is so much a part of this cherished experience.

TODAY we face still another dire threat to wilderness preservation. Steadily increasing use of the few remaining areas of this type, especially those within relatively easy reach of large populations, threatens to defeat the purposes for which they were established. Self-discipline is called for to avoid damaging or destroying the wilderness influence in this manner. There must develop a willingness to refrain from travelling in large groups. Many well-distributed *non-wilderness* areas are equally available to large groups without sacrifice of scenic enjoyment, physical pleasure, or comradeship of the trail. Perhaps the time may come when advance reservations will be accepted as a prerequisite to non-damaging wilderness use, just as traffic rules are recognized as an essential requirement for safe auto travel.

The benefit from maintaining wilderness areas with the barest minimum of management or improvement is to me well worth the material losses or inconveniences which may result from time to time. The alternative, namely, a more or less gradual application of artificial controls or remedies, would in time destroy the most basic value of all. We might "improve" the land for the present, but lose the wilderness forever.

As our civilization grows more complex, as present conveniences come to be regarded as necessities, and as land managers continually strive to refine their practices, the urge to modify natural processes will grow apace.

There is too little left of what was once primitive America to warrant such practices. Wilderness is one of the few remaining symbols of the non-materialistic facets of human nature. Its sociological and spiritual worth may be far more important than the relatively minor material values which might be gained from its taming. The best information available supports the view that we have enough areas outside of the wilderness on which to exercise our technological knowledge and ingenuity in maintaining and enhancing the productivity of our resources.

Sierra Club Members in the Armed Services

In compiling the following list, we have used the information available at the time (October 10, 1951) and regret any mistakes or omissions. We would be grateful for any additions or corrections members may be able to send us.

U. S. Army

Abell, Alan P.
Baldauf, Rainer
Blakemore, David M.
Buchanan, John C.
Bueermann, William
Cauffield, James W.
Chadwick, David L.
Chrisman, Channing B.
De Saussure, Frank
Dod, Kenneth S.
Dostal, Francis B.
Gobel, T. M.
Griffin, Gerald M.
Gunter, C. F.
Haering, Howard R.
Hall, Thomas
Harvey, M. G.
Holman, Guy
Kruse, Lawrence A., Jr.
Maher, Vincent G.
McCluskey, Don R.
McConnell, Ray S.
Meyer, Max W.
Noble, Mark
Poggi, E. John
Rice, David A.
Rypins, Martin Russel
Slocum, Fritz
Spanur, Richard C.
Trost, Carl
Wall, Robert W.
Wall, William E.
Whipple, Frank H.

U. S. Air Force

Ackerman, F. W.
Ames, Lawrence C., Jr.
Beers, Eugene W.
Bell, John
Bell, Mary S.
Brush, Murray
Collins, William F.
Crockett, Walter M., Jr.
Errett, Chester L.
Hamilton, Douglas L.
Jones, Richard E.
Kitchener, W. G.
Long, William E.
Lowe, Robert T.
Meyer, James W.
Miller, John C.
Newfield, Lou K., Jr.
Smith, Sydney K., Jr.
Von Warton, Richard
Wyman, Richard E.
Zenger, Wayne W.

U. S. Navy

Ashe, Donald J.
Bates, Bernarr
Bendel, Roland M.
Bramkamp, Lynn, Jr.
Breckenfeld, R. R.
Christensen, Norman M.
Dodds, Richard W.
Dunton, Richard I.
Falge, Robert F.

Forsyth, John
Fraser, Malcolm V.
Gray, David S.
Gulick, Charles W., Jr.
Hamblin, W. H.
Hoyt, William
Martin, John S.
Newman, William H.
Rappolee, Don W.
Root, Malcolm P.
Simons, Thomas C.
Smith, Denis G.
Smith, William M.
Stearns, David B.
Stone, D. Dacre, Jr.
Talcott, Lloyd E.
Thibodeaux, Page J., III
Trompeter, J. F.

Marine Corps.

Frincke, Milton M.
Guild, John N.*
Johnston, Randall B.
Michael, Richard
Rodigou, Rene J.

Coast Guard

Baumann, Eugene P.
Schnitzer, R. L.

* Killed in action, 1950.

Board Meets at Norden

The regular fall meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club was held during the Labor Day week end at Clair Tappaan Lodge. All directors were present except Ansel Adams, excused on account of illness. Also present were Honorary President Colby and Honorary Vice-President Farquhar, and many club members and committee chairmen.

Dinosaur National Monument

First of the imminent problems to be considered was that of Dinosaur National Monument. Philip Hyde, who had been sent by the Executive Committee to make a thorough photographic survey of the area, was present, and showed the Board some of the preliminary prints which he had prepared. The officers and the Editorial Board were authorized to plan a strong campaign in support of the National Monument, to be presented through the *Sierra Club Bulletin* at the time when a bill for the construction of the dam is finally introduced in Congress.

San Jacinto Tramway

A full discussion was held on this subject and the officers were authorized to continue the fight. President Crowe felt that conservationists should present their point of view publicly as often as opportunity permitted—a view shared by Olaus Murie, President of the Wilderness Society, and Howard Zahniser, the Executive Secretary.

Three Sisters Primitive Area

The U.S. Forest Service has proposed to eliminate a substantial portion of the established Three Sisters Primitive Area. In exchange, the Forest Service has proposed additional primitive areas in Oregon which would approximately equal the acreage eliminated. A careful study of this matter has been made by some of the Oregon conservation clubs, and by Olaus Murie, President of the Wilderness Society. The matter was to be considered carefully at the annual convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs being held the same day at the Mazama Lodge on Mount Hood. The matter was therefore referred to the Conservation Com-

mittee to study the data obtained by the Federation, and to Edgar Wayburn, the Sierra Club delegate to the convention.

Reorganization of Dept. of Agriculture

The Task Force on Natural Resources of the Hoover Commission for Reorganization of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government has carefully studied the problems created by the present division of administration of natural resources between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior. The majority opinion of the task force recommended that all agricultural functions, including growing of timber and advice to farmers concerning timber and all grazing administration, be centralized in the Department of Agriculture. Thus, the rather extensive timber functions of the Bureau of Land Management and its huge grazing responsibility would be transferred from the present place in the Department of the Interior to new services in the Department of Agriculture. Bills have now been introduced into Congress to carry this into effect. On the other hand, a minority report (written in part by Horace Albright, an Honorary Vice-President of the Sierra Club) has taken the equally logical view that the administration of all natural resources should be centered in one Department of Conservation. The congressional bills were submitted to the Sierra Club just prior to this meeting of the Board of Directors. The problem is so complex that action was deferred until the next meeting of the Board, November 10, 1951.

Conservation Education

It is recognized more and more that education in conservation—in the schools and the communities and through other means—is of the greatest importance.

A proposal has been made to Francis Farquhar, by LeRoy Provins of New York City and Edward Mallinckrodt of St. Louis, that a suitably financed foundation be set up to provide action to carry out the ideals of the conservation groups. Mr. Provins pointed out that many conservation groups were unable to carry out their program as effectively as was necessary due to the limitations of

volunteer help and the limitations set by the tax laws. The proposal has immense possibilities. Its value would be so great that it was referred to the Conservation Committee for further correspondence and study to make such a program as effective as possible.

"Science in Action" was highly complimented as being possibly the most valuable television program that has yet been instituted. Even more interesting is the fact that it holds the highest popularity rating of TV programs from San Francisco. It is presented by the California Academy of Sciences under the sponsorship of the American Trust Company. Wilbur Twining, Chairman of the Visual Education Committee of the Sierra Club, who was present at the meeting, was requested by the Board to confer with Dr. Miller of the Academy of Sciences concerning the possibility of television and radio programs on subjects which the Sierra Club is well qualified to present, and which could be of high interest to the public.

The William T. Hornaday Memorial Foundation, Inc. has sponsored a fine program throughout California, and in the eastern United States, to provide junior natural history museums in the principal communities of the states. The Board was highly appreciative of the fine conservation work of the Foundation, particularly in the field of conservation education of the younger generation.

Butano Forest

It was reported that this conservation campaign of the Sierra Club has been highly successful, with contributions of \$5,150 from club members for a "Sierra Club Grove." Approximately \$487,000 is available to match the value of land turned over to the state by the county. This will assure preservation of 1,500 out of 4,200 acres. The campaign is continuing in an effort to save additional acreage. The Sierra Club contribution will provide at least \$10,000 in value of virgin redwoods close to San Francisco.

Tomales Bay State Park

Some years ago, Mrs. Norman B. Livermore and the Marin Conservation League had conducted a vigorous campaign to raise funds to permit the County of Marin to ac-

quire the remarkable park at Shell Beach on Tomales Bay. Charles F. Cavanaugh, a Sierra Club member of long standing, was the first contributor to that fund. The campaign was successful, and 180 acres of the rare bishop pine and a fine salt-water beach free from fog and surf were obtained as a Marin County park. Under Mrs. Livermore's dynamic leadership, the campaign has continued, until now a greatly enlarged state park has been assured, containing approximately 840 acres of the bishop pine and several fine beaches. The Executive Committee at its meeting of June 29 therefore made an emergency appropriation of \$1,000 from the bequest of the late Charles Cavanaugh to assist in the creation of this enlarged park. (See *SCB*, September, 1951.) An additional contribution of \$1,000 from the Save-the-Redwoods League and \$8,000 raised by the Marin Conservation League have assured the creation of this park. The Board of Directors fully confirmed the action of the Executive Committee, and expressed their appreciation of the successful work of Mrs. Livermore and the Marin Conservation League.

Forest Service Campgrounds

As the population of the country has grown, particularly in the last decade in the West, and as time for recreation has become more available to Americans, the recreational load on the forests and parks of the United States has increased at a devastating rate. In many areas, the danger from sanitation problems, lack of fire protection, and lack of adequate facilities for the huge crowds that need the outdoor relief from mechanical civilization threaten the actual destruction of the forest areas in which the people congregate.

The Sierra Club and many other conservation organizations throughout the country have for years presented insistently to Congress the need for adequate funds for sanitation, fire protection, and other essential governmental services in such campground areas. Expenditures for World War II and for the present cold-war emergency have caused the Bureau of the Budget to limit severely any appropriation item labeled "Recreation." The Board of Directors therefore again emphasized the urgent need for

additional recreation funds, and in view of the failure of regular budgetary appropriations, the directors endorsed H.R. 565, which would provide a fixed annual appropriation of ten per cent of forest receipts to be used for recreational facilities. Lewis Clark voted no in adherence to his conviction that the principle of fixed-percentage appropriations is fundamentally wrong.

Kings Canyon Road

In May, 1950 the Board of Directors had authorized the officers of the Sierra Club to grant a right of way across the Sierra Club property at Zumwalt Meadow, with the condition subsequent that if the road should ever be carried beyond Copper Creek, the right of way would revert to the Sierra Club. The purpose of limitation was to set a definite limit upon the extent that the road could go up the Kings Canyon. It was recognized that a statute enacted in 1946 prohibits the use of any National Park Service funds on roads outside the floor of the South Fork of the Kings Canyon. Nevertheless, there has been continuing underground movement on the part of local people outside the Service, to force the road over Kearsarge Pass to the Owens Valley. The condition, however, was not acceptable to the Department of the Interior under their long established policy in dealing with land transactions. A compromise was therefore worked out whereby Conrad Wirth, as Acting Director of the National Park Service, on August 14, 1951, wrote the Sierra Club as follows:

I was very glad to receive word recently from our Region Four Office, San Francisco, that discussions with you had brought out the possibility of the Directors of the Sierra Club donating to the United States the necessary right-of-way through the Club's Tract No. 24, Zumwalt Meadow, Kings Canyon National Park, necessary for completion of the road project now under construction.

It is understood, based upon your discussions with Mr. Manbey, that the Directors of the Sierra Club will probably agree to donate the necessary right-of-way, without reservation, provided that this Service accompany request for said right-of-way with a statement of our policy with respect to the road terminus.

I am glad to give you my assurance that the Service has no plans for extending the road be-

yond Copper Creek, and that it is our policy not to do so. (Our italics.—Ed.)

This letter is being sent to you through Regional Director Merriam in order that he may present it to you accompanied by the right-of-way description, survey plat, and such other descriptive material as needed for consideration of the Club at the September 2 meeting.

Relying upon this letter of August 14, 1951 from Conrad Wirth, the officers of the Sierra Club were authorized to execute and deliver to the United States a right-of-way deed upon determination by the Secretary of the Sierra Club that the route described by metes and bounds and by map conforms to the high-line route previously agreed upon in conference between representatives of the Sierra Club, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Public Roads.

Kings Canyon Trip

Dr. Harold Crowe and Dr. Harold Bradley told the Board of the extremely fine opportunity they and Richard Bradley had had, during eight days in wilderness country, to discuss with National Park Service officials the conservation problems of the Kings Canyon National Park, and of the nation in general. This trip had been organized by Eivind Scoyen, Superintendent of the Park, to show at first hand to Associate Director Conrad Wirth and Regional Director Lawrence Merriam the beauties of this park and the problems that were involved. The Board of Directors expressed sincere appreciation to Wirth, Merriam, and Scoyen, for their generous coöperation in making such a conference possible for the three members of the Sierra Club who participated.

Invitation to a Meeting

A letter was read from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, telling of the 1954 National Meeting which will be held in San Francisco. The directors of the Sierra Club voted to accept the invitation to participate in the Conference and referred the matter to the Natural Sciences Committee to work out effective participation on the part of the Sierra Club. Francis P. Farquhar, as President of the California Academy of Sciences, has offered to assist

the Natural Sciences Committee in such a program.

Round the World Trip

Francis and Marjory Farquhar gave the Board a brief report of their fine trip around the world on behalf of the Academy of Sciences, and as representatives of the Sierra Club. A formal motion was adopted to thank the Greek Alpine Club for its hospitality to the Sierra Club representatives and to express the desire to continue in full coöperation.

Recognitions and Appreciations

The attention of the Board was called to fine gifts of books from Marion Randall Parsons to the Sierra Club. The Board again expressed to the Honorary Vice-President of the Sierra Club its sincere thanks and appreciation for her continuing generosity to the club.

In recognition of more than thirty years' service to the national parks of the United States and his outstanding service during that period in defense of the principles of the national parks, the Board of Directors unanimously confirmed their previous written election of Arthur T. Demaray, Director of the National Park Service, as an Honorary Life Member of the Sierra Club. The Secretary expressed to the Board the cordial appreciation of Mr. Demaray in response to the formal letter of August 19, 1951, notifying him of his election.

In recognition of Conrad Wirth's strong support of national park principles since he joined the Service in 1933, and because of his close association with the Sierra Club in numerous conferences with its officers and representatives, particularly in the field of acquisition of private lands within national parks and boundary questions, and in view of his present familiarity with the Sierra Nevada in a lengthy pack trip through the wilderness areas of the Kings Canyon National Park to see the conditions at first hand, the Board of Directors unanimously confirmed their previous written election of Mr. Wirth as an Honorary Life Member of the Sierra Club. Dr. Crowe reported to the Board the enthusiastic appreciation that Mr. Wirth expressed when notified of his election

while on his trip in the Kings Canyon National Park.

The directors again expressed to the firm of Farquhar and Heimbucher sincere appreciation for the generous and capable assistance throughout the years on financial accounting and auditing matters. It is a source of real satisfaction to the Board that financial matters of the Sierra Club are in such good hands.

Dr. Bradley presented to the Board, and they accepted with appreciation, the generous offer of Mr. Lockert of Nashville, Tennessee, to give to the Sierra Club a fine album of photographs of the Kings Canyon country.

Reports from the Lodges

Harwood Lodge. Director Arthur Johnson reported that the lodge had been appraised at \$36,000 three years ago, and would be of greatly increased value as a result of present improvements. A sum of \$3,500 in club funds has been invested in the Lodge. A motion was carried that a loan of \$1,000 be authorized from the Sierra Club general funds to the Southern California Chapter for a period of seven years at four per cent interest per annum, payable annually.

Clair Tappaan Lodge. Chairman James Mulholland opened his report by presenting to the Treasurer a check for \$1,100, to cover the office expense in handling the 1950-51 reservations. He reported that the financial situation had improved to such an extent that no further funds would be required at that time from the club treasury. The directors unanimously commended Mulholland for a fine job and authorized him to continue operations on the present basis for the coming season.

Shasta Lodge. The possibility of large-scale ski development in the area was reported. It was decided not to attempt to forecast any action of the Sierra Club until the possible developments were known more definitely.

Use of the Lodges. Upon further discussion, the Lodge Committee was instructed to study the use of all the club lodges, making a detailed financial study and a use and opinion survey; to submit a preliminary report at the May, 1952 meeting of the Board on the factual data obtained.

Mexia Bequest

On formal motion, \$10,000 of the Mexia Bequest was allocated to the publication fund as was previously contemplated, the balance of the bequest to remain unallocated until the need for allocation arises.

Far West Ski Association

A request was presented to the Board from the Ski Mountaineers Section of the Southern California Chapter that the Board authorize the Ski Mountaineers Section to join the Far West Ski Association. The Board concluded that it did not have sufficient facts upon which to base a decision, and therefore requested the Ski Mountaineers Section to furnish a formal report with recommended action to the November meeting of the Board.

Short Reports

A fine report by Alex Hildebrand, chair-

man of the committee, on the Scope of the Activity of the Sierra Club, had been prepared, but as there had not been time for mimeographing, it will be mimeographed as early as possible for consideration at the November meeting.

David R. Brower, as chairman of the Editorial Board, pointed out that modern typography provided for a much simpler letterhead than the one now used by the club. However, the present type was authorized by the Board to be continued.

The first printing of *Going Light* has sold so well that a new printing of 2500 copies was authorized.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board was set for Saturday, November 10, 1951, at Los Angeles.

RICHARD M. LEONARD
Secretary

Army Sets Up Mountain Training Command

[After consultation with General Mark W. Clark, Commanding General of the Army Field Forces, the American Alpine Club, the Arctic Institute of North America and the National Ski Patrol System have formed a committee consisting of Robert H. Bates (representing the American Alpine Club), Edward F. Taylor (representing the National Ski Patrol System), A. Lincoln Washburn (representing the Arctic Institute), and John C. Case (Chairman), to serve as a connecting link between the Army and the various civilian agencies and individuals interested in the problems connected with mountain and cold weather warfare.

General Clark has authorized Brig. Gen. Onslow S. Rolfe to deal with the committee.

Following a meeting with General Rolfe in Washington on October 10, at which the General outlined the Army's training plans, the committee was authorized to release the following statement.]

Commands Activated August 1

On 20 June 1951, Department of the Army approved the establishment of the Mountain Training Command at Camp Carson, Colo-

rado. A general order was published by Fifth Army on 1 August 51 organizing and activating the Command.

The general mission of the Command is to plan, organize and conduct mountain warfare training in mountainous areas over rock, ice and snow under all weather conditions; to develop, standardize, record and to teach techniques of individual and unit movement, survival and resupply by air, animal and man pack and aerial tramways or cableways; to conduct tests of new mountain equipment; to review current doctrine on mountain operations and the use of special mountain equipment.

Winter Exercises Planned

The Mountain Training Command will provide thirty instructors for winter indoctrination training for units participating in Exercise SNOW FALL. The indoctrination school of three weeks duration will be held during late November and early December for three hundred soldiers from the 11th Airborne Division, Third Armored Cavalry Regiment and 278th RCT, at Pine Camp, New York. Upon completion of the indoc-

trination school, the thirty experts will join the three units and participate as advisors and winter technicians.

The entire Exercise Force will assemble at Pine Camp, New York, beginning on 2 January 52. The Exercise Force will participate in a four-week winter training phase before going into the maneuver which will take place between the 9th and 15th of February 1951 inclusive. The Exercise is a Joint Army-Air Force Maneuver, involving the above mentioned three units, the Eighteenth Air Force (Trp Car), elements of the Ninth Air Force together with supporting units. During the course of the Exercise, the 11th Airborne Division will make an Airborne assault.

During November and December, this year, at Camp Carson, Colorado, the Mountain Training Command will provide Arctic indoctrination training for three hundred engineer troops prior to their departure about 15 January 1952 for the Yukon territory. These troops will take part in Exercise EAGER BEAVER, a joint Canadian-United States Arctic engineer field trial, extending from 15 January to about 1 July 1952.

Members of the old Mountain Training Detachment assisted in the training of the 196th RCT, which was deployed to Alaska during the past summer.

This detachment gave training to eight ranger companies during the past nine months. This training proved to be of special value. During the past summer, mountain warfare training was given to approximately eight hundred reserve officers in seven different classes of two weeks each.

10th Mountain Men on Staff

The Commanding Officer of the Mountain Training Command is Col. Warren S. Shelor, who has had a great deal of experience in this type of work. During the past war, he commanded a battalion of the 85th Mountain Infantry Regiment.

Lt. Col. H. E. Link is the Operations Officer of the Command. Lt. Col. Link is well known in mountaineering circles. During World War II, he instructed in a mountain warfare school in Italy and formerly was a member of the 10th Mountain Division. Since the war Lt. Col. Link has been recrea-

tional director of the Garmish Recreation Center for U. S. Forces in Germany.

Capt. Ray Zoberski is a member of the Mountain Training Command. He has an enviable war record with the 3rd Infantry Division. He also was at one time a member of the 10th Mountain Division.

Lt. Col. Eric C. Wikner has recently joined the Mountain Training Command. Lt. Col. Wikner has a well-known record in mountaineering circles. He served as an Infantry Battalion executive officer in the 10th Mountain Division.

Eldon Metsger, a civilian specialist with the Command, is an outstanding mountaineer and has accomplished many notable climbs.

Capt. David S. Arnold will soon join the Mountain Training Command on his return from Germany. Capt. Arnold was a wartime member of the 87th Mountain Infantry Regiment. Later he served with American Mission for Aid to Greece.

Maj. James L. Seery will soon join the Mountain Training Command following an assignment as instructor in the Maryland National Guard. Maj. Seery was Operations Officer of the old Mountain Training Detachment just after the last war. Maj. Seery also served with the American Mission for Aid to Greece.

Two other field exercises occurred during the past year which are of special interest in this field.

FIRESTEP involved a battalion combat team of the 82d Airborne Division which was air transported from Ft. Bragg to Alaska in April 1951. The unit air landed near Anchorage, Alaska, participated in an exercise there and thereafter parachute landed in the vicinity of Fairbanks, Alaska.

Exercise SNOW SHOE was an air-defense exercise which involved Air Force units and a company of the 82d Airborne. The Exercise took place in the vicinity of Stevensville, Newfoundland, and involved the air defense of installations in the vicinity of Goose Bay, Labrador.

[Anyone wishing further information (on this subject) should get in touch with the Editor (see page 2), who is keeping in contact with Mr. Case's Committee.]

These NEW BOOKS will interest you

THE CALIFORNIA INDIANS: a source book

edited by R. F. Heizer and M. A. Whipple

A collection of essays about California's first inhabitants—their material and social culture, languages, legends, archaeological findings, and their history. The articles, written by authorities in the field of anthropology, have been selected to give the general reader a broad knowledge of the Indians of California.

488 pages, 15 illustrations, 12 maps

\$6.50

AMPHIBIANS of WESTERN NORTH AMERICA

by Robert C. Stebbins

Gives accounts of all the species and subspecies of amphibians (newts and salamanders, frogs and toads) that inhabit western North America. The book is particularly valuable for the amateur naturalist because of the numerous illustrations — maps, line drawings by the author and five color plates.

592 pages, 32 figures, 64 plates

\$7.50

ARIZONA FLORA

*by Thomas H. Kearney, Robert Peebles,
and collaborators*

Nearly every life form found among North American flowering plants is represented in Arizona. This book provides the means for identifying the 3,370 species of flowering plants, ferns, and fern-allies growing without cultivation in Arizona. Introductory chapters describe the geology, climate, and types of vegetation of Arizona.

1,032 pages, frontis., 45 halftones, map

\$7.50

University of California Press

Berkeley 4, California

Threat to the Matterhorn

The Italian Company who are seeking to build a cable railway up the Matterhorn have received authority subject to the approval of the Council of State, to establish a line by way of the Furggrat to the Italian summit. They claim that this will draw "flocks of Sunday tourists from the towns" to Breuil, and will enable a beacon for aircraft to be set up at the summit.

The Italian Alpine Club have started a press campaign against the scheme and, through the Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme, have called for the support of the mountaineering organizations of other countries. A letter to *The Times*, signed by the President and surviving past-Presidents of the Alpine Club has called the attention of the British Public to the scheme and set forth the objections to it, which are, we believe, shared by the vast majority of climbers in this country. Presidents of British clubs, as well as individual mountaineers, are urged to support the Italian Alpine Club by expressing their views in letters to the President of the U.I.A.A. (Boul. des Tranchées 16, Geneva). Such action, if taken quickly, will help the C.A.I. to show the volume of world-wide opposition which exists.

—*Mountaineering*, September 1951

New in the Library

The new, enlarged edition of Devereux Butcher's "Exploring our National Parks and Monuments" (Houghton Mifflin, 1951, \$2.50 paper, \$4.00 cloth), has just been received in the club library. This, the third edition, has much added material, including a section on the National Archaeological Monuments, and like the two previous editions, is fully illustrated with many fine photographs. Along with the easy-to-find and readable information, is a great deal of easily-digested conservation education.

A very valuable supplement to the above, is Mr. Butcher's "Exploring the National Parks of Canada" (\$1.50 paper), also published this year—84 pages of photographs and interesting information. Like the above, this was prepared under the auspices of the National Parks Association. It is a much-needed little book, to give those of us south of the border a better idea of the wonderful natural beauties to be found from the Selkirk Mountains of southern British Columbia to Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. These parks are administered by the National Parks Service in the Department of Resources and Development, at Ottawa. Like our parks, they are dedicated to the people, and are to be maintained and "made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Read this little book, and then go up and visit the parks, and you will know why they have been set aside for the people of Canada, and for anyone "whose heart is capable of appreciating the sublime beauty of their landscapes."

Number One of "Alpe, Neige, Roc," an international alpine review, written in French, has just reached the library and delighted those who have had a chance to see it. Outstanding in its appearance and quality, this magazine is planned to come out twice a year, in the spring and autumn. It is published under the auspices of l'Union des Patrouilleurs Alpins de la Brigade de montagne 10, at Saint-Maurice, Switzerland, to help provide a rescue fund for victims of alpine disasters. Fine photographs and drawings, a great variety of articles which will appeal not only to the climber and skier, but to a wider public, and its prime reason for being, make this magazine noteworthy. We look forward to the next issue. We have not yet been able to ascertain the price, but it is available through French & European Publications, Inc., 610 Fifth Ave., New York 10, at a price of about \$2.

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